

The Sun

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The Master of the Puppets.

As the Hon. MARCUS ANTONIUS HANNA sits in his office in Cleveland and controls his candidate at Canton by telephone, and ponders over the winning of the delegates thus far won and estimates the future, it is not likely that he gives way to hilarity or wastes time in rejoicing. He is no man to chuckle prematurely, and he knows that the fight is only begun.

We venture to say, however, that there is one expression which never fails to bring a twinkle to his eye and a thin smile—as much as so busy a man can afford—to his lips. It is this: "The great popular demonstration for McKinley."

As the Hon. MARCUS ANTONIUS HANNA has been saluting delegates, pulling wires, keeping missionaries on the go, and secretly moving heaven and earth and his check book ever since 1894 to bring about this great "popular" demonstration, he is justified in grinning when he reads about it in the McKinley papers. In fact, a "roop of wild horse laughs" would not do more than justice to the humor of it.

A Concealed Danger in the Rapid Transit Act.

To most of our citizens the opinion of the Appellate Judges of the Supreme Court adverse to the rapid transit tunnel, probably revealed, for the first time, a danger in the scheme of which they were unaware.

The act under which, at the election of 1894, a vote was taken for or against the municipal construction of the tunnel road limited its cost to the city to \$50,000,000. For this sum the contractors were not only to complete the road, but at their own cost and expense to equip, maintain, and operate it. On the representation that such was the fact the vote was given for the proposition.

It now appears that, at the next session of the Legislature after the election, an amendment was obtained to the act by which it was provided that the city should "secure and assure to the contractor the right to construct and operate the road, free of all rights, claims, or other interference, whether by injunction, suit for damages, or otherwise, on the part of any owner, contractor, or other person." As the Judges point out, this provision was not only impossible of fulfillment, but it would have opened the way for making the city liable in damages to an unlimited extent and involving it in an amount of obligation which would absolutely ruin and destroy its credit, and bring about as great a disaster as was occasioned by the collapse of the Panama Canal.

Precisely who is responsible for this amendment we do not know, and now that it has been deprived of its power for mischief it is hardly worth while to inquire, but the discovery of it adds to the value of the decision which has knocked the whole thing on the head.

New Forces Fighting Against Spain.

The most important features of the Cuban news of the past week have been those pertaining to the wastage of the Spanish army by infectious diseases, and to the insubordination of the Havana volunteers.

Every humane person must be grieved to know of the ravages of yellow fever and small-pox in the Spanish ranks. They are more destructive than battle; they cannot be fought with the weapons of war. Probably a majority of the troops now in Cuba have been sent there from Spain since last autumn. The Madrid papers have told of the departure of more than 50,000 of them between October last and March of this year. They were mostly raw and young, and belonged to last year's contingent of recruits drawn from all parts of Spain. Their first military adventure is that in which they are now engaged against the Cuban revolutionists. It is a kind of warfare in which inexperienced soldiers suffer many disadvantages. The worst thing of all for them is the Cuban climate, especially in the summer season, and more so yet when they have to engage in active operations during that season. The 50,000 men on guard along the trocha are in a region of malaria, and are constantly kept on edge by the heat and restlessness of an enemy well seasoned, native to the soil, and less liable than are the unaccustomed young Spaniards to those diseases which arise from the ground when it is soaked by the summer rains.

It is from the medical inspectors belonging to our marine hospital service who have been sent to Cuba, and from our Consuls there, that we get the only trustworthy reports to be obtained about the epidemics that prevail in the island at this time, in the Spanish camps and elsewhere. The Havana papers ignore the subject by WETTER's dispatch about it to be transmitted to this country, or even to Spain. "Nearly all the yellow fever in Havana at present," says Dr. BURGES, in a report sent to the Surgeon-General at Washington last week, "is among the soldiers; and the effect of the warm rainfall will be an increase of the disease both at Havana and along the trocha, where the sanitary conditions are poor." It appears, also, that the small-pox has become epidemic in the army, not only at Havana, but wherever troops are stationed; and we have had statistics from our Consuls as to the extent of its ravages at a number of Cuban ports. The Consul at the garrison town of Cienfuegos, in the province of Santa Clara, sent word one day last week that there were then over 800 cases there.

"Yellow fever," says the American medical inspector in his report from Santiago de Cuba, "is raging among the new recruits from Spain, so that the authorities have had to build separate hospital barracks for the sufferers." As lately as Thursday last, we had information from Havana to the following effect: "In the army there has been an alarming increase of yellow fever and small-pox, which deadly diseases are epidemic also in the navy. Calls for army doctors and nurses have been cable to Spain, and extensive hospitals are under construction along the military line from

Maricao to Manjano." Many other despatches of the character of those from which quotations are here made have been received from Cuba within a fortnight.

The news is bitter; it is deplorable. The manhood of Spain is exposed to untimely destruction in Cuba; and that not only upon the battlefield, and not by the revolutionists only.

It was probably because of fear of the two plagues prevalent in the army that the volunteers who enlisted last year for the defense of Havana manifested their insubordination when WETTER desired to send 5,000 of them to the fighting parts of the trocha. We printed the other day a Havana letter in which this reason was given for their refusal to obey orders. They had enlisted as home guards, not for field service; their place was behind the walls of Havana, not in front of Macle's cavalry. We need not have any doubt that the explanation of their conduct given in our letter was the true one, though WETTER has officially denied that he ever ordered them to go to the trocha; it seems that he merely spoke of his desire that they should go to it for the temporary relief of the regular troops. The volunteers, however, had not, up to the time of our latest advices from Havana, gone anywhere near the trocha. They have a right to stay in their domiciles, where they are in less danger from the plague and pretty safe yet from bullets. This fight in Cuba is Spain's fight.

The refusal of importance, inasmuch as it makes manifest once more that Spain, even at a time of extremity, cannot obtain any useful service from any part of the resident population of Cuba. She must depend wholly upon troops imported from Spain, upon the recruits that can there be enlisted, for the war against Cuba. The volunteers number forty or fifty thousand, mostly business people, and they are always ready to parade on the right side of the Morro Castle and La Cabaña. It is possible that they would surrender if Gen. GOMEZ should ever fall upon Havana.

We had news last week of six or seven combats between the Spaniards and the revolutionists. We are ready to make a guess, after examining the Spanish despatches about them, that the latter party were successful in nearly every case. As WETTER's report against the export of tobacco for cigars, we have never regarded it as a matter of any consequence.

Brookfield and Collis.

Prior to the extension of civil service rules to the Department of Public Works, that municipal department was regarded among politicians as the most important in town. It was a citadel of strength and a source of supply of patronage to the partisan workers. Possession of the Department of Public Works had in the past, had an important influence upon the fortunes of local Democratic factions. Some of the difficulties arising therefrom have been brought to State Conventions, and others even to National Conventions of the Democratic party.

Since the adoption of the civil service rules in the Department of Public Works, the influence of its executive head in dispensing lucrative and desirable offices to ardent partisans has decreased, but the political power of the office remains, as heretofore, of prime importance, all the other public departments in New York of the first grade being governed by Boards of Commissioners, whereas the Department of Public Works, with its enormous influence and large pay roll, remains under the control of a single Commissioner.

When, under the Power of Removal bill, in February, 1895, WILLIAM L. STROGO, Mayor of New York, had a chance to appoint a new Commissioner to succeed MICHAEL T. DALY, Democrat, the Mayor was counseled by the Union League or anti-PLATT Republicans, and by other Republican opponents of the regular Republican organization, to break with the PLATT men by the nomination of WILLIAM BROOKFIELD. Long the Chairman of the Republican State Committee and of the Republican City Committee, Mr. BROOKFIELD had been defeated for reelection in the latter by Mr. LAUTERBACH. The PLATT regulars submitted to the consideration of Mayor STROGO the names of two Republicans for Commissioner of Public Works, but the Mayor, taking counsel of his anti-PLATT associates, rejected both and appointed Mr. BROOKFIELD. Later, he made one of the PLATT Commissioners and the other a Commissioner of Land and Assessments. Mr. BROOKFIELD is in the business, and at the time when the appointment of Commissioner of Public Works was tendered to him he had his ticket bought and his itinerary arranged for a trip to the commonwealth of sunshine, everglades, oranges, and alligators, the State of Florida. Republican office seekers excluded from the enjoyment of the sweets of patronage in New York City, cannot be handled by a Commissioner of Public Works with the same dexterity of touch and delicacy of contact as is the rule in the glass business. For this reason, perhaps, for there does not appear to have been any other reason, Mr. BROOKFIELD made it a condition of his acceptance of a deputy to whom he should care the routine political work of the department should be committed. This was done, a Philadelphia lawyer, CHARLES H. T. COLLIS, had been connected under Republican rule in Philadelphia with the Department of City Trusts, was appointed deputy, and was intrusted with the task of organizing the Republican machine in a manner which would be fatal to the continued predominance of Mr. PLATT and put PLATT's friends and supporters in a minority. Gen. COLLIS consecrated himself to this task. As the result of his beneficent political activity the PLATT Republican faction got much stronger, with municipal offices withheld from its members, while the STRONG-BROOKFIELD faction got steadily weaker. At the beginning of the fight the STRONG-BROOKFIELD men had about 45 per cent. of the Republican City Committee; they have now about 15 per cent.

Several months ago Commissioner BROOKFIELD reconsidered his determination to remain in New York. Resigning the office to which he had been appointed in February, he asked for the promotion of his subordinate, the Deputy Commissioner, the man from Philadelphia, to be his successor. Had COLLIS been an Ohio man, some Democratic politicians say, he would have been promoted without reluctance or ado. But coming as he does from Pennsylvania, it was thought by Mayor STROGO and his advisers prudent and judicious to appoint him under two conditions, which were as follows: First, that he would stipulate to carry out the policy declared by Mr. BROOKFIELD to be his "policy"; and, second, that he should appoint as his deputy a man from Pennsylvania familiar with the statutes enacted in Harrisburg and able to deal without vexatious or embarrassing delay the Juniata River, the Schuylkill turnpike, or the Sinking Springs, upon the map of the Key-

stone State. C. H. T. COLLIS was appointed Commissioner of Public Works and ADELBERT H. STEEL, Deputy. The former hails from the eastern and the latter from the western part of Pennsylvania.

The policy defined and favored by Mr. BROOKFIELD, and approved and agreed to by Mr. COLLIS, was not in the former's absence carried out by the latter. Thereupon, after a troublesome and unsatisfactory term of some months service, Mr. STEEL resigned his post as Deputy, giving up writing and with interesting particulars his reasons therefor in a communication which he committed along with his resignation to WILLIAM LYONS STRONG. The disclosure of its contents has been withheld pending the return to the United States of the man who may be said "to know all about it." We refer to WILLIAM BROOKFIELD, who is not a Pennsylvanian like the others, but a Jerseyman born.

BROOKFIELD is here. He is back from Europe, and we shall know later on what COLLIS says to him, the former deputy to the former chief, and what BROOKFIELD, the former chief to the former deputy, says to COLLIS.

No Income Tax for France.

It was the proposal of an income tax that emboldened the French Senate to defy the Chamber of Deputies and to force Premier BOURGEOIS to resign, not only by passing a vote of censure on him, but by refusing to vote the appropriations needed for Madagascar. The Senate clearly was wrong in its assumption that the Constitution of 1875 is workable in respect of its provision that a Cabinet must be accountable to two Chambers and may be upset by either. But as regards the income tax the Opposition majority felt the public pulse more accurately than did the Ministry.

This subsequent event has proved. The new Premier, M. MELINE, obtained the confidence of the Chamber of Deputies by the narrow majority of 34, and the friends of the outgoing Cabinet boasted that, before the Chamber reassembled, a revolution would have taken place, or been arranged for, in the Senate itself. The terms of a considerable number of the Senators soon expire. Their successors will be chosen by the Departmental Councils and the Municipal Councils conjointly, and it was predicted that these bodies would show themselves favorable to the income tax.

Exactly the contrary has occurred. An immense majority of the Departmental Councils have denounced the proposed impost, and the offer to tax industry and thrift has failed signally to exercise the expected seductive influence on the municipal elections which have just been held. Out of 332 towns the Opportunists, or Moderates, have carried 180, and this figure is expected to be increased by the second balloting. The grasp, therefore, of the Moderates upon the Senate cannot be shaken.

The French Senate has had a stroke of luck similar to that which the British House of Lords has profited. The House of Lords is an anachronism, the existence of which in its present unmodified condition cannot be defended upon rational grounds. Nevertheless, it is much stronger than it was a few years ago, because it blocked the project of home rule for Ireland, to which a large majority of Englishmen were opposed. The French Senate's assertion of a right to overthrow a Ministry is a pretension nowhere else tolerated in a second chamber, and, in spite of the Constitution of 1875, it would not have been endured in France had not this pretension been used to kill the income tax, which, as the action of the Departmental Councils and the elections for Municipal Councils have shown plainly, is detested by a large majority of Frenchmen.

Major Mum and Mumbo Jumbo.

It is quite probable that the Washington correspondent of our esteemed neighbor, the *Tribune*, is correct in asserting that Mr. CLEVELAND and his friends hope that the Republicans will nominate Major MCKINLEY. It is certain that the *Tribune* correspondent is wrong in assuming that Mr. CLEVELAND's preference for Major MCKINLEY is due to a desire that "the next campaign should be fought out on tariff lines, rather than that the financial question should secure the most prominence."

On the contrary, the one hope of the republican, unselfish and self-sacrificing person who declines to say that he doesn't want a third term rests upon the singularly prudent person who declines to say whether he is for or against silver.

If there is any smouldering enthusiasm among the Democrats to revive the tariff fight, from which they repel bitter humiliation, when to the same end, as Mr. MCKINLEY was a man for money and no other, he would dissolve the uncertainty which now surrounds his financial views, and if those views were such as the East hopes they are, he would not only greatly strengthen himself, but he would knock in the head the Third Term idea, thus performing two good strokes of works at once, and relieving both the Republicans and the Democrats.

But he remains as dumb as Mr. CLEVELAND.

The tendency in naval policy just now is to strengthen the home rather than the foreign stations. Up to a recent period it had been, for half a dozen years or more, the other way. The calls for ships on both coasts of Central and South America, among the islands of the Pacific, on the shores of Asia, and in Behring Sea were so numerous that it was impossible to dispatch vessels to answer them. But now Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Samoa, Hawaii, and China no longer make these appeals, and the revenue cutter service takes care of the seal patrol. Argentina's troubles have caused the strengthening of the European station, but even there the excitement is dying out. The affairs of China and Japan are so quiet that there is talk of bringing home our two largest vessels on the Asiatic station, the Olympia and the Charleston. On the other hand, our affairs with Venezuela and Cuba naturally fall into the charge of the North Atlantic squadron. 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